Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a coated preparation, which method comprises coating a core with an aqueous dispersion, comprising pioglitazone hydrochloride and a core-coating material selected from the group consisting of

(a) hydroxypropyl cellulose, wherein (i) a 5%(w/v) aqueous solution of which cellulose has a viscosity of 24 mPa·s at 20°C and/or (ii) a 2%(w/v) aqueous solution of which cellulose has a viscosity of 3.0-5.9 mPa·s at 20°C;

(b) hydroxypropyl cellulose, wherein (i) a 5%(w/v) aqueous solution of which cellulose has a viscosity of 8 mPa·s at 20°C and/or (ii) a 2%(w/v) aqueous solution of which cellulose has a viscosity of 2.0-2.9 mPa·s at 20°C; and

(c) polyvinyl alcohol-polyethylene glycol graft copolymer whose 5%(w/v) aqueous solution has a viscosity of not more than 35 mPa·s at 20°C,

wherein the core comprises an active ingredient.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the active ingredient is a therapeutic agent for diabetes.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the therapeutic agent for diabetes is a biguanide.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the biguanide is metformin hydrochloride.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the active ingredient is a therapeutic agent for hyperlipidemia.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the therapeutic agent for hyperlipidemia is an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for improving dissolution of pioglitazone hydrochloride from a preparation comprising a core coated with pioglitazone hydrochloride, which method comprises, when producing said preparation:

coating the core with an aqueous dispersion, comprising pioglitazone hydrochloride and a core-coating material selected from the group consisting of

(a) hydroxypropyl cellulose, wherein (i) a 5%(w/v) aqueous solution of which cellulose has a viscosity of 24 mPa·s at 20°C and/or (ii) a 2%(w/v) aqueous solution of which cellulose has a viscosity of 3.0-5.9 mPa·s at 20°C;

(b) hydroxypropyl cellulose, wherein (i) a 5%(w/v) aqueous solution of which cellulose has a viscosity of 8 mPa·s at 20°C and/or (ii) a 2%(w/v) aqueous solution of which cellulose has a viscosity of 2.0-2.9 mPa·s at 20°C; and

(c) polyvinyl alcohol-polyethylene glycol graft copolymer whose 5%(w/v) aqueous solution has a viscosity of not more than 35 mPa·s at 20°C.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the core is a sustained release preparation containing a biguanide.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the biguanide is metformin hydrochloride.

23. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the core is a tablet.